In the Claims:

Claims 1-10: cancelled

11. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the cutting edges are hardened.

12. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 1, wherein the cutting structure is metal.

13. (Withdrawn) The cutting tool according to claim 10, wherein the metal is steel.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for cutting belts which comprises utilizing the cutting tool of claim 1.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A cutting tool for belts comprising:

a zigzag cutting structure formed of at least three cutting plates, each cutting plate having opposite ends and a cutting edge ~~from a first free end and a second free end~~ extending between the opposite ends, the three cutting plates joined at their ends in a series of junctions to form the zigzag cutting structure, each junction having at most two plates extending therefrom, said cutting plates each having an approximately rectangular cross-section ~~from the first free end to the second free end~~ between the opposite ends and

the cutting edges are cross cutters, extending between diagonally opposite corners of the rectangular cross-section, and at least two of the cutting edges share a common endpoint.

Claims 16-17: cancelled.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The cutting tool of claim 15, wherein each cutting edge is formed by an intersection of two asymmetrical cutting edge surfaces.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The cutting tool according to claim 18, wherein each cutting plate has an axis of rotation perpendicular to and centrally located in the rectangular cross section of the cutting plate, and the cutting edge surfaces of a respective cutting edge are arranged axially symmetrical to one another so that any point on one cutting edge surface has a respective symmetrical point on the other cutting edge surface about said axis.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The cutting tool according to claim 15, wherein adjacent cutting plates are arranged mirror-symmetrical to one another.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The cutting tool according to claim 15, wherein adjacent cutting edges are arranged mirror symmetrical to one another.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The cutting tool according to claim 15, wherein the cutting structure is formed by two types of cutting plates arranged alternately and at a specific opening angle to each other.

Claim 23: cancelled.